

ON SOME ASYMPTOTIC PROPERTIES OF POISSON PROCESS

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The Poisson process $X(t, \omega)$,¹⁾ ($\omega \in \Omega$, $0 \leq t < \infty$), as is well-known, is a temporally and spatially homogeneous Markoff process satisfying

- (1) $X(0, \omega) = 0$ and $X(t, \omega) = \text{integer} \geq 0$ for every $\omega \in \Omega$,
 (2) $\text{Pr}\{X(t, \omega) - X(t', \omega) \geq k\} = \sum_{i=k}^{\infty} \frac{\{\lambda(t-t')\}^i}{i!} e^{-\lambda(t-t')}$ for $t > t'$,

where k is a non-negative integer and λ is a positive constant. In this note we consider the random variable $L_m(\omega)$ which denotes the length of t -interval such that $X(t, \omega) = m$ ($m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$) and some of other properties concerning them.

§ 1. The known results on L_m .

Definition. We define $L_m(\omega)$, the function of m and ω , as follows,

$$L_m(\omega) = t_{m+1}(\omega) - t_m(\omega),$$

where

$$t_m(\omega) = \text{Min}\{\tau; X(\tau, \omega) = m\}.$$

This $t_m(\omega)$ exists almost certainly by the right continuity property of Poisson process, and furthermore it is clear that $t_m(\omega)$ is measurable. Thus $L_m(\omega)$ becomes a non-negative random variable.

THEOREM 1. $L_0, L_1, \dots, L_m, \dots$ are mutually independent random variables with a common distribution function $F(l)$,

where

$$(3) \quad F(l) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-\lambda l} & \text{if } l \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Furthermore

$$(4) \quad E(L_m)^{2)} = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$(5) \quad V(L_m)^{2)} = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

This theorem was already suggested by P. Levy [2]³⁾ and a rigorous proof was

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¹⁾ ω denotes the probability parameter.

²⁾ $E(\dots)$ and $V(\dots)$ denote the mean and the variance respectively.

³⁾ Numbers in brackets refer to the bibliography at the end of this note.

given by T. Nishida [1]. From this theorem we can easily conclude the following corollaries.

COROLLARY 1. *The characteristic function $\varphi_L(z)$ of L_m , and therefore that of F , is $\frac{\lambda e^{iz}}{\lambda - iz}$.*

COROLLARY 2. *The probability $L_m \cong l$ ($\cong l_0$) under the assumption $L_m \cong l_0$ is $e^{-\lambda(l-l_0)}$ and its conditional expectation is $\frac{1}{\lambda} + l_0$.*

§ 2. The definitions and the behaviours of M_n and m_n

Definition. Let M_n be defined by

$$M_n(\omega) = \max \{L_0(\omega), L_1(\omega), \dots, L_{n-1}(\omega)\}.$$

$M_n(\omega)$ is monotone non-decreasing with respect to n for every ω . The probability law of $M_n(\omega)$ is easily obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (6) \quad Pr\{M_n < x\} & \quad (= Pr\{M_n \leq x\}) \\ & = Pr\{L_0 < x, L_1 < x, \dots, L_{n-1} < x\} \\ & = Pr\{L_0 < x\} Pr\{L_1 < x\} \dots Pr\{L_{n-1} < x\} \\ & \quad (\text{as } L_m \text{ is mutually independent}) \\ & = (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^n. \end{aligned}$$

THEOREM 2. $E(M_n) = O(\log n)$.

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} E(M_n) & = n\lambda \int_0^\infty x e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \\ & = -\frac{1}{\lambda} n \int_0^\infty \log(1 - e^{-y}) e^{-ny} dy \\ & = -\frac{1}{\lambda} n \int_0^\varepsilon \log(1 - e^{-y}) e^{-ny} dy - \frac{1}{\lambda} n \int_\varepsilon^\infty \log(1 - e^{-y}) e^{-ny} dy \end{aligned}$$

where ε is arbitrary small such that $1 - e^{-y} \sim y$ when $0 \leq y \leq \varepsilon$. The second term is $o(\log n)$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$, and

$$\begin{aligned} -n \int_0^\varepsilon \log ye^{-ny} dy & = \log n \int_0^{\varepsilon} \left(1 - \frac{\log z}{\log n}\right) e^{-z} dz \\ & = O(\log n). \end{aligned}$$

Hence we can conclude $E(M_n) = O(\log n)$.

THEOREM 3. $\lambda M_n / \log n$ converges in law to the random variable Y which takes the value 1 with probability 1.

Proof. We have

$$(7) \quad Pr\{\lambda M_n / \log n < x\} = (1 - 1/n^x)^n \rightarrow \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x > 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } 1 > x \geq 0, \end{cases}$$

as n tends to ∞ .

More precisely we may prove

THEOREM 4. *If $0 < \alpha < 1$, then*

$$(8) \quad \Pr\{\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda M_n / \alpha \log n \geq 1\} = 1.$$

In order to prove the theorem above we need the following lemma.

LEMMA. *The series*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - 1/n^\alpha)^n$$

is convergent when $0 < \alpha < 1$.

Proof of the Lemma. It is sufficient to prove $u_n/v_n \rightarrow 0$ ($n \rightarrow \infty$), where

$$u_n = (1 - 1/n^\alpha)^n, \quad v_n = 1/n^2.$$

Let

$$f(x) \equiv x^2(1 - 1/x^\alpha)^x.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \log f(x) &= 2 \log x + x \log(1 - 1/x^\alpha) \\ &= \frac{(2 \log x)/x + \log(1 - 1/x^\alpha)}{1/x} \\ &\rightarrow \frac{2((1 - \log x)/x^2) + \alpha x^{x-1}/(1 - x^{-\alpha})}{-1/x^2} \quad (x \rightarrow \infty) \\ &= 2(\log x - 1) - \alpha x^{-\alpha+1} - 1 \\ &= \left(\frac{2(\log x - 1)}{x/(x^\alpha - 1)} - \alpha \right) \cdot \frac{x}{x^\alpha - 1}. \end{aligned}$$

Here

$$2 \frac{\log x - 1}{x/(x^\alpha - 1)} \rightarrow 0, \quad \frac{x}{x^\alpha - 1} \rightarrow \infty. \quad (x \rightarrow \infty)$$

Hence $\log f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ and therefore $f(x) \rightarrow 0$ when $x \rightarrow \infty$. Thus $u_n/v_n \rightarrow 0$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof of Theorem 4. We have, by (6) and by the Lemma above,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Pr\left\{M_n < \frac{\alpha}{\lambda} \log n\right\} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^\alpha}\right)^n < \infty.$$

Therefore, by the Borel-Cantelli's Lemma,

$$\Pr\{\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n^c\} = 1,$$

where

$$E_n = \left\{ \omega; M_n(\omega) < \frac{\alpha}{\lambda} \log n \right\}.$$

On the other hand

$$(9) \quad \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n^c \cong \left\{ \omega; \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n(\omega) / \frac{\alpha}{\lambda} \log n \cong 1 \right\}.$$

This shows that (8) is valid.

Definition. Let $m_n(\omega)$ be defined by

$$m_n(\omega) = \text{Min} \{L_0(\omega), L_1(\omega), \dots, L_{n-1}(\omega)\}.$$

$m_n(\omega)$ is monotone non-increasing with respect to n for every ω . The law of m_n is calculated in the same way as M_n :

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} Pr\{m_n > x\} & (= Pr\{m_n \cong x\}) \\ & = Pr\{L_0 > x, L_1 > x, \dots, L_{n-1} > x\} \\ & = (e^{-\lambda x})^n = e^{-\lambda n x}, \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$Pr\{m_n < x\} = 1 - e^{-\lambda n x}.$$

THEOREM 5. If $\beta > 1$, then

$$(11) \quad Pr\{\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda m_n / \beta n^{-1} \log n \cong 1\} = 0.$$

Proof. We have

$$Pr\{m_n \cong \beta \log n / \lambda n\} = 1/n^3 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-3} < \infty.$$

Thus, by the Borel-Cantelli's Lemma,

$$Pr\{\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_n\} = 0,$$

where

$$F_n = \{\omega; m_n(\omega) \cong \beta \log n / \lambda n\}.$$

On the other hand

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_n \cong \{\omega; \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda m_n(\omega) / \beta n^{-1} \log n \cong 1\}.$$

Thus we obtain (11).

§ 3. Asymptotic properties of Z_n

Let $Z_n(\omega)$ be defined by

$$Z_n(\omega) = (L_0(\omega) + L_1(\omega) + \dots + L_{n-1}(\omega)) / M_n(\omega).$$

Remembering

$$Pr\{L_0 = M_n\} = Pr\{L_1 = M_n\} = \dots = Pr\{L_{n-1} = M_n\} = 1/n,^{4)}$$

we see that Z_n has the first and the second (absolute) moments:

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} E(Z_n) &= \int_0^{\infty} dx_1 \cdot n \left(\int_0^{x_1} \dots \int_0^{x_1} \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{x_1} \times \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \lambda^n e^{-\lambda x_1} e^{-\lambda x_2} \dots e^{-\lambda x_n} dx_2 \dots dx_n \right). \end{aligned}$$

⁴⁾ See e.g. D. A. Darling [3].

$$(13) \quad E(Z_n^2) = \int_0^\infty dx_1 \cdot n \left(\int_0^{x_1} \dots \int_0^{x_1} \overset{\leftarrow n-1 \text{ ple} \rightarrow}{(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n)^2} \times \right. \\ \left. \times \lambda^n e^{-\lambda x_1} e^{-\lambda x_2} \dots e^{-\lambda x_n} dx_2 \dots dx_n \right).$$

The characteristic function $\varphi_{Z_n}(z)$ of Z_n satisfies

$$(14) \quad \varphi_{Z_n}(z) = E(e^{iz}(L_0 + L_1 + \dots + L_{n-1})/M_n) \\ = n\lambda^n \int_0^\infty dx_1 \left(\int_0^{x_1} \dots \int_0^{x_1} \overset{\leftarrow n-1 \text{ ple} \rightarrow}{e^{iz \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{x_1}}} \times \right. \\ \left. \times e^{-\lambda(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n)} dx_2 \dots dx_n \right) \\ = n\lambda^n \int_0^\infty e^{iz-\lambda x_1} dx_1 \left(\int_0^{x_1} e^{iz \frac{x}{x_1} - \lambda x} dx \right)^{n-1}$$

(as L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{n-1} are mutually independent)

$$(15) \quad = n\lambda^n \int_0^\infty e^{iz-\lambda x_1} x_1^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{iz-\lambda x_1} - 1}{iz - \lambda x_1} \right)^{n-1} dx_1 \\ = n\lambda^n e^{iz} \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{iz-\lambda x} - 1}{iz - \lambda x} \right)^{n-1} dx. \\ \frac{1}{i} \frac{d\varphi_{Z_n}(z)}{dz} = n\lambda^n e^{iz} \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{iz-\lambda x} - 1}{iz - \lambda x} \right)^{n-1} dx \\ + n(n-1)\lambda^n e^{iz} \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{iz-\lambda x} - 1}{iz - \lambda x} \right)^{n-2} \times \\ \times \frac{(iz - \lambda x)e^{iz-\lambda x} - e^{iz-\lambda x} + 1}{(iz - \lambda x)^2} dx.$$

$$(16) \quad \left(\frac{1}{i} \right)^2 \frac{d^2\varphi_{Z_n}(z)}{dz^2} = n\lambda^n e^{iz} \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{iz-\lambda x} - 1}{iz - \lambda x} \right)^{n-1} dx \\ + 2n(n-1)\lambda^n e^{iz} \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{iz-\lambda x} - 1}{iz - \lambda x} \right)^{n-2} \\ \times \frac{(iz - \lambda x)e^{iz-\lambda x} - e^{iz-\lambda x} + 1}{(iz - \lambda x)^2} dx \\ + n(n-1)(n-2)\lambda^n e^{iz} \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{iz-\lambda x} - 1}{iz - \lambda x} \right)^{n-3} \\ \times \frac{\{(iz - \lambda x)e^{iz-\lambda x} - e^{iz-\lambda x} + 1\}^2}{(iz - \lambda x)^4} dx \\ + n(n-1)\lambda^n e^{iz} \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{iz-\lambda x} - 1}{iz - \lambda x} \right)^{n-2} \\ \times \frac{(iz - \lambda x)^2 e^{iz-\lambda x} - 2\{(iz - \lambda x)e^{iz-\lambda x} - e^{iz-\lambda x} + 1\}}{(iz - \lambda x)^3} dx.$$

The differentiations in (15) and (16) are possible since Z_n has the first and the second moments.

THEOREM 6. Z_n has the first and second absolute moments. And if n is

sufficiently large, the mean and the standard deviation of Z_n are both of order $n/\log n$.

Proof. The first half of the theorem is proved above. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 (17) \quad E(Z_n) &= \frac{1}{i} \left(\frac{d\varphi_{Z_n}(z)}{dz} \right)_{z=0} = n\lambda^n \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{e^{-\lambda x} - 1}{-\lambda x} \right)^{n-1} dx \\
 &\quad + n(n-1)\lambda^n \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{1 - e^{-\lambda x}}{\lambda x} \right)^{n-2} \frac{-\lambda x e^{-\lambda x} - e^{-\lambda x} + 1}{\lambda^2 x^2} dx \\
 &= \varphi_{Z_n}(0) - n(n-1)\lambda \int_0^\infty e^{-2\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx \\
 &\quad + n(n-1) \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx.
 \end{aligned}$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varphi_{Z_n}(0) &= 1, \\
 n(n-1)\lambda \int_0^\infty e^{-2\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx \\
 &= n(n-1)\lambda \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx - n(n-1)\lambda \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \\
 &= n(n-1)\lambda \left(\frac{1}{\lambda(n-1)} - \frac{1}{\lambda n} \right) = 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

The last term of (19), $I_n = \int_0^\infty n(n-1)x^{-1}e^{-\lambda x}(1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1}dx$, is of order $n/\log n$.

It is proved as follows. We have

$$I_n = \int_0^\infty \frac{n(n-1)e^{-\lambda x}}{x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx = n(n-1) \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-ny}}{-\log(1 - e^{-y})} dy.$$

Let a be sufficiently small such that $e^{-t} \sim 1 - t$ when $0 < t < a$, and let K be sufficiently large such that $\log(1 - e^{-t}) \sim e^{-t}$ when $t > K$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (18) \quad \frac{I_n}{n(n-1)} &= \int_0^a + \int_a^K + \int_K^\infty \\
 &= \int_0^a \frac{e^{-nt}}{-\log(1 - e^{-t})} dt \sim \int_0^a \frac{e^{-nt}}{-\log t} dt \\
 &= \frac{1}{n \log n} \int_0^{na} \frac{e^{-y}}{1 - \log y / \log n} dy \quad (nt = y) \\
 &< \frac{1}{n \log n} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-y}}{1 - \log y / \log n} dy = O\left(\frac{1}{n \log n}\right),
 \end{aligned}$$

since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-y}}{1 - \log y / \log n} dy = \int_0^\infty \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-y}}{1 - \log y / \log n} dy = \int_0^\infty e^{-y} dy = 1.$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\frac{1}{n \log n} \int_0^{na} \frac{e^{-y}}{1 - \log y / \log n} dy \geq \frac{1}{n \log n} \int_1^{na} \frac{e^{-y}}{1 - \log y / \log n} dy$$

$$\cong \frac{1}{n \log n} \int_1^{na} e^{-y} dy = \frac{1}{n \log n} (e^{-1} - e^{-na}).$$

Hence

$$\int_0^a \frac{e^{-nt}}{-\log(1-e^{-t})} dt = O(1/n \log n),$$

$$\int_a^K \frac{e^{-nt}}{-\log(1-e^{-t})} dt = C(e^{-na} - e^{-nK}) = o(e^{-n}),$$

where $0 < 1/(-\log(1-e^{-a})) \leq C \leq 1/(-\log(1-e^{-K})) < \infty$.

Therefore

$$\int_K^\infty \frac{e^{-nt}}{-\log(1-e^{-t})} dt \sim \int_K^\infty e^{-(n-1)t} dt = o(e^{-n}),$$

and thus

$$I_n = O(n/\log n).$$

This proves

$$E(Z_n) = O(n/\log n).$$

Similarly we have

$$\begin{aligned} E(Z_n^2) &= \left(\frac{1}{i}\right)^2 \left(\frac{d^2 \varphi_{Z_n}(z)}{dz^2}\right)_{z=0} \\ &= \varphi_{Z_n}(0) + 2n(n-1)\lambda^2 \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{1-e^{-\lambda x}}{\lambda x}\right)^{n-2} \frac{1-e^{-\lambda x} - \lambda x e^{-\lambda x}}{\lambda^2 x^2} dx \\ &\quad + n(n-1)(n-2)\lambda^n \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} x^{n-1} \left(\frac{1-e^{-\lambda x}}{\lambda x}\right)^{n-3} \frac{(-\lambda x e^{-\lambda x} - e^{-\lambda x} + 1)^2}{\lambda^4 x^4} dx \\ &= O(n/\log n) + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{\lambda} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-\lambda x}}{x^3} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-3} (1-e^{-\lambda x} - \lambda x e^{-\lambda x})^2 dx \\ &\quad - \frac{n(n-1)}{\lambda} \int_0^\infty x^{-2} e^{-\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} \{\lambda^2 x^2 e^{-\lambda x} - 2(1-e^{-\lambda x} - \lambda x e^{-\lambda x})\} dx \\ &= O(n/\log n) + n(n-1)(n-2)\lambda \int_0^\infty e^{-3\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-3} dx \\ &\quad - 2n(n-1)(n-2) \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-2\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx \\ &\quad + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{\lambda} \int_0^\infty x^{-2} e^{-\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \\ &\quad - n(n-1)\lambda \int_0^\infty e^{-2\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx - 2n(n-1) \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-2\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx \\ &\quad + \frac{2n(n-1)}{\lambda} \int_0^\infty x^{-2} e^{-\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$n(n-1)(n-2)\lambda \int_0^\infty e^{-3\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx = 2,$$

$$n(n-1)\lambda \int_0^\infty e^{-2\lambda x} (1-e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx = 1,$$

we obtain

$$E(Z_n^2) = O(n/\log n) + 2n(n-1)^2 \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_0^\infty x^{-2} e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \\ - 2n(n-1)^2 \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-2\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx.$$

Thus we have

$$(19) \quad V(Z_n) = E(Z_n^2) - (E(Z_n))^2 \\ = O(n/\log n) + \frac{2n(n-1)^2}{\lambda} \int_0^\infty x^{-2} e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \\ - 2n(n-1)^2 \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-2\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx \\ - \{n(n-1) \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx + o(n/\log n)\}^2 \\ \cong O(n/\log n) + \frac{n(n-1)^2}{\lambda} \int_0^\infty x^{-2} e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \\ - 2n(n-1)^2 \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-2\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx,$$

since, by the Schwarz's inequality,

$$\left\{ \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \right\}^2 \leq \int_0^\infty x^{-2} e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx \\ = \frac{1}{n\lambda} \int_0^\infty x^{-2} e^{-\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx.$$

Similarly as in the proof of (18), we obtain

$$(20) \quad \frac{n(n-1)^2}{\lambda} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-\lambda x}}{x^2} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1} dx = O(n^2/(\log n)^2).$$

There exists a large number M such that

$$(21) \quad \frac{e^{-2\lambda x}}{x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} < \frac{e^{-\lambda x}}{x^2} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-1}$$

whenever $x > M$. This fact implies that $J_n = 2n(n-1)^2 \int_0^\infty x^{-1} e^{-2\lambda x} (1 - e^{-\lambda x})^{n-2} dx$

is, when $n \rightarrow \infty$, negligible in the formula (19).

Therefore $E(Z_n^2)$ and $V(Z_n)$ are of order $n^2/(\log n)^2$.

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